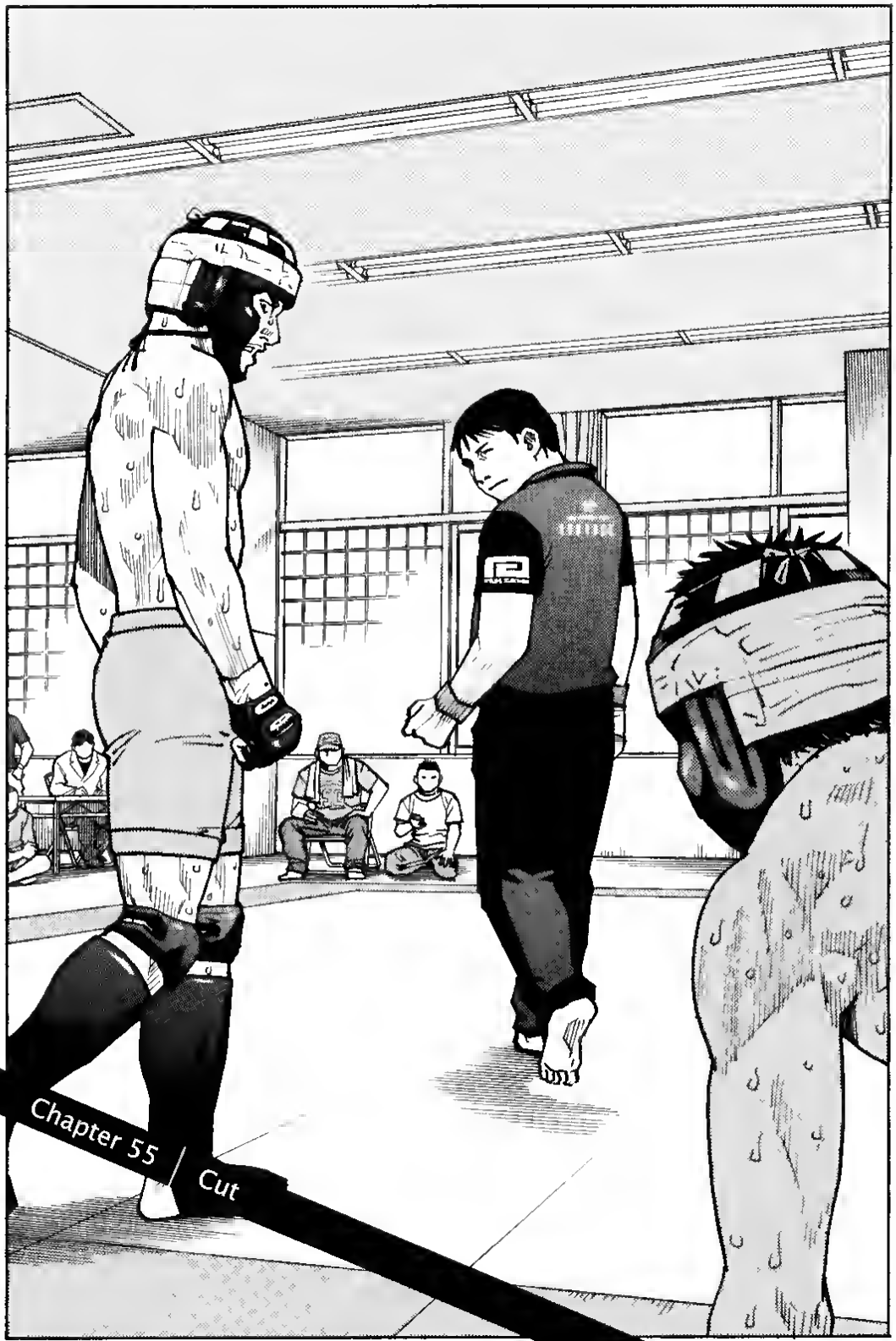
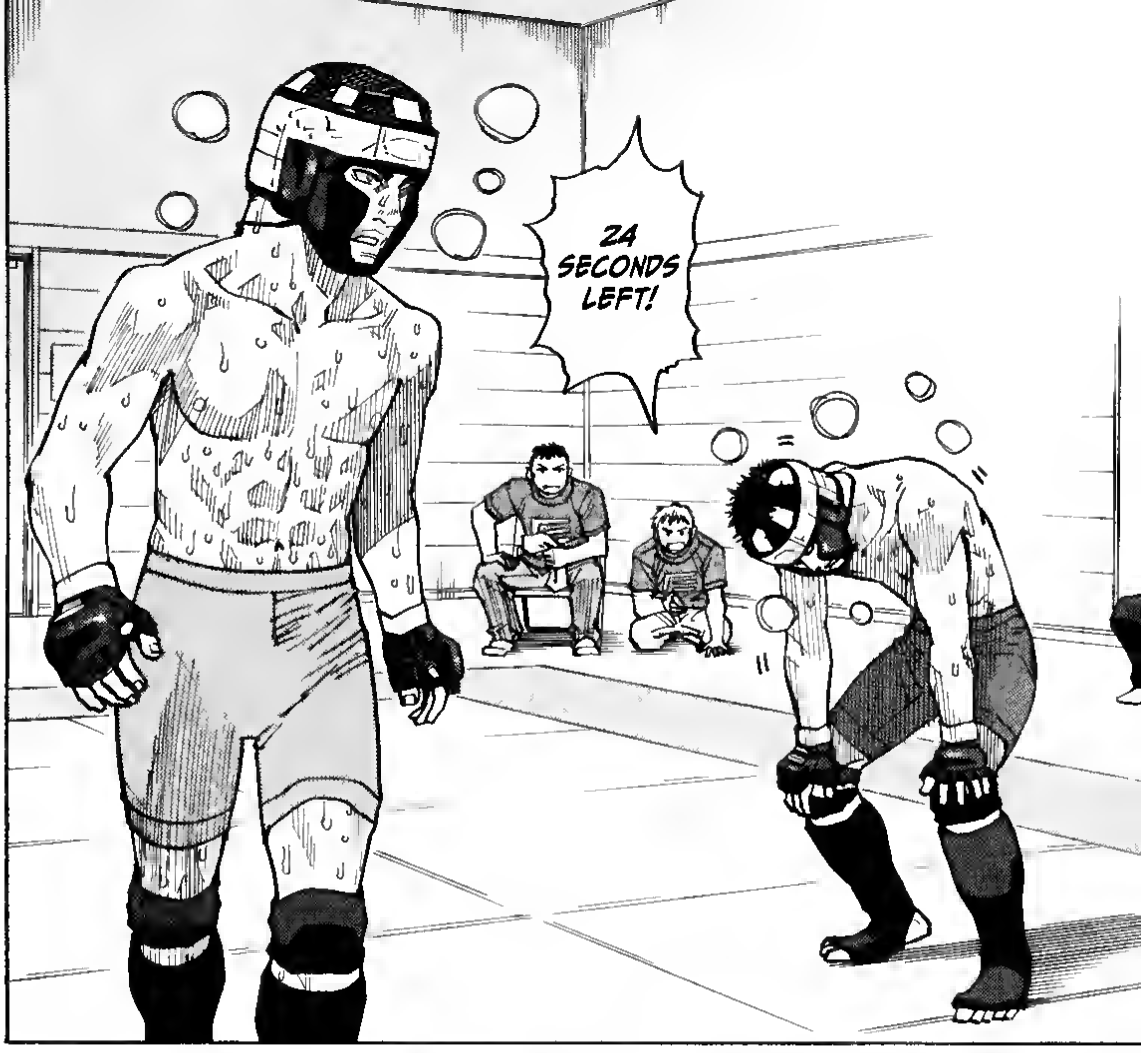
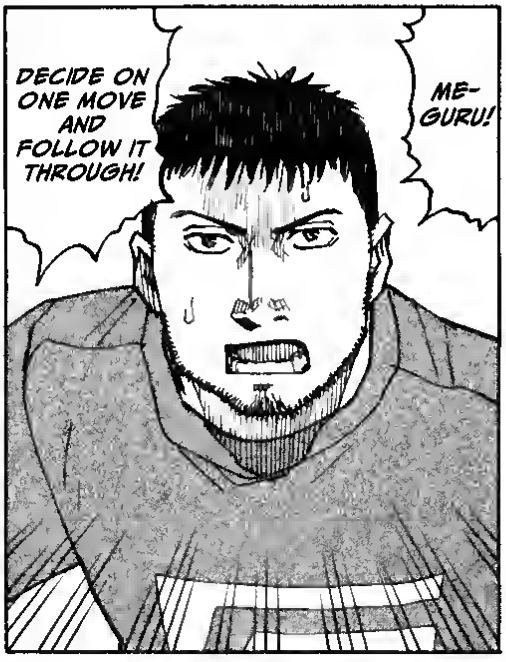
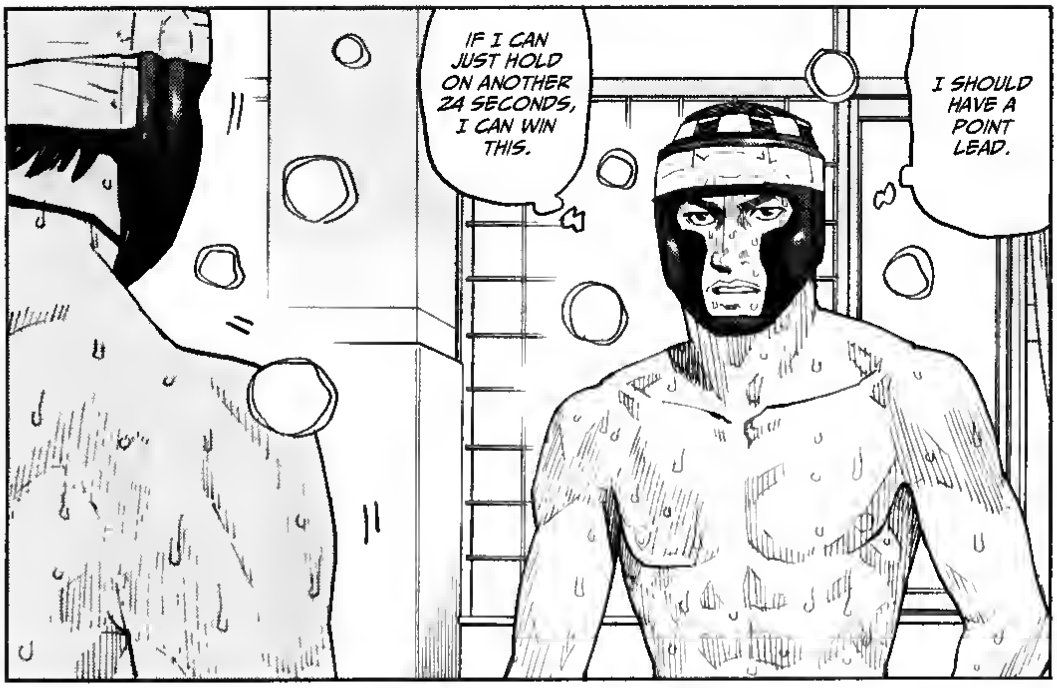


Chapter 55 | Cut


24 SECONDS LEFT!

gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp

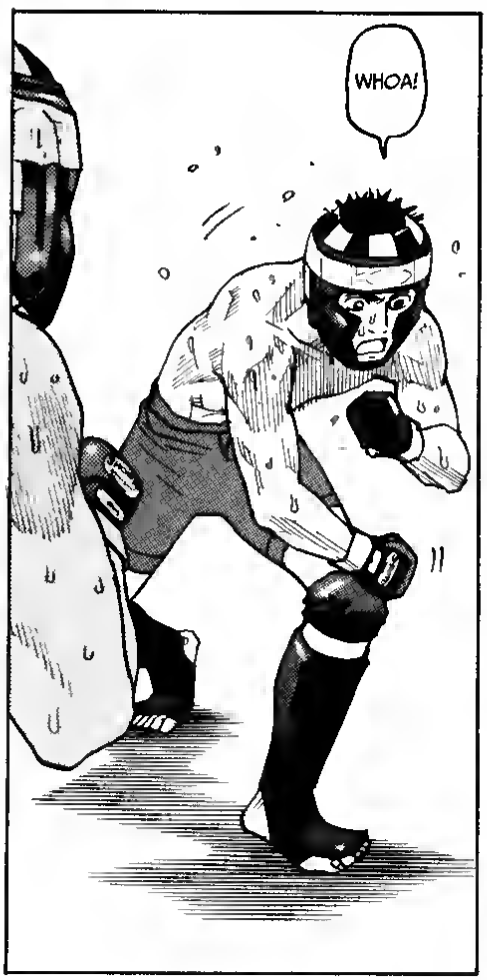

DECIDE ON ONE MOVE AND FOLLOW IT THROUGH!
ME-GURU!


IF I CAN JUST HOLD ON ANOTHER 24 SECONDS, I CAN WIN THIS.
I SHOULD HAVE A POINT LEAD.

FIGHT!

BUT...
...IS THAT REALLY WHAT I WANT TO DO?

ヒ
ユッ


WHOA!

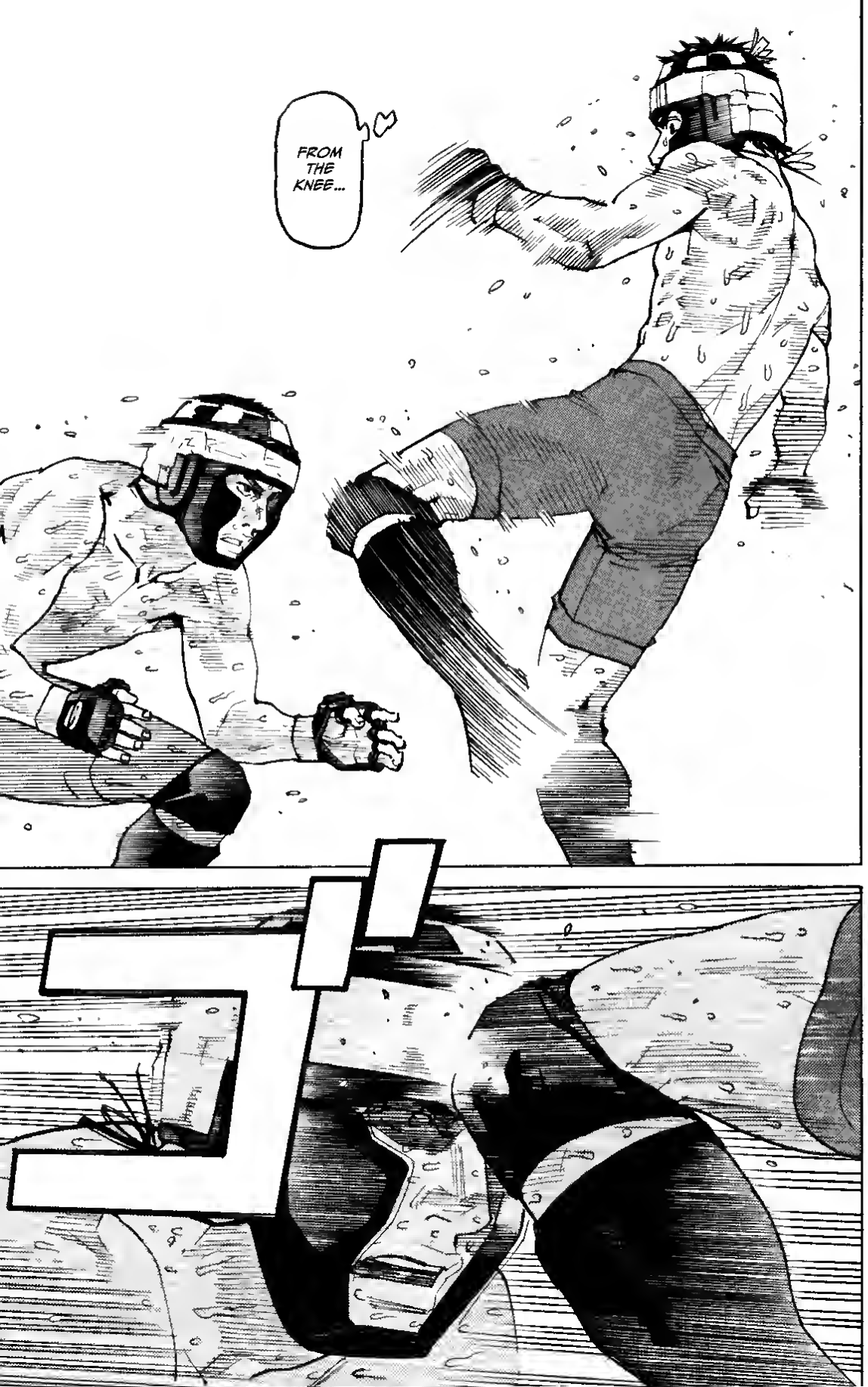
ヒ
ユッ

...AND YET...
HE CAN BARELY STAY UPRIGHT ...
IS HE GETTING ENOUGH OXYGEN?
HE'S BEING CARRIED ALONG WITH THE PUNCH...
...TO BEAT ME.
...HE'S STILL DETER-MINED...
COME TO THINK OF IT...
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
THIS IS MY LAST CHANCE...

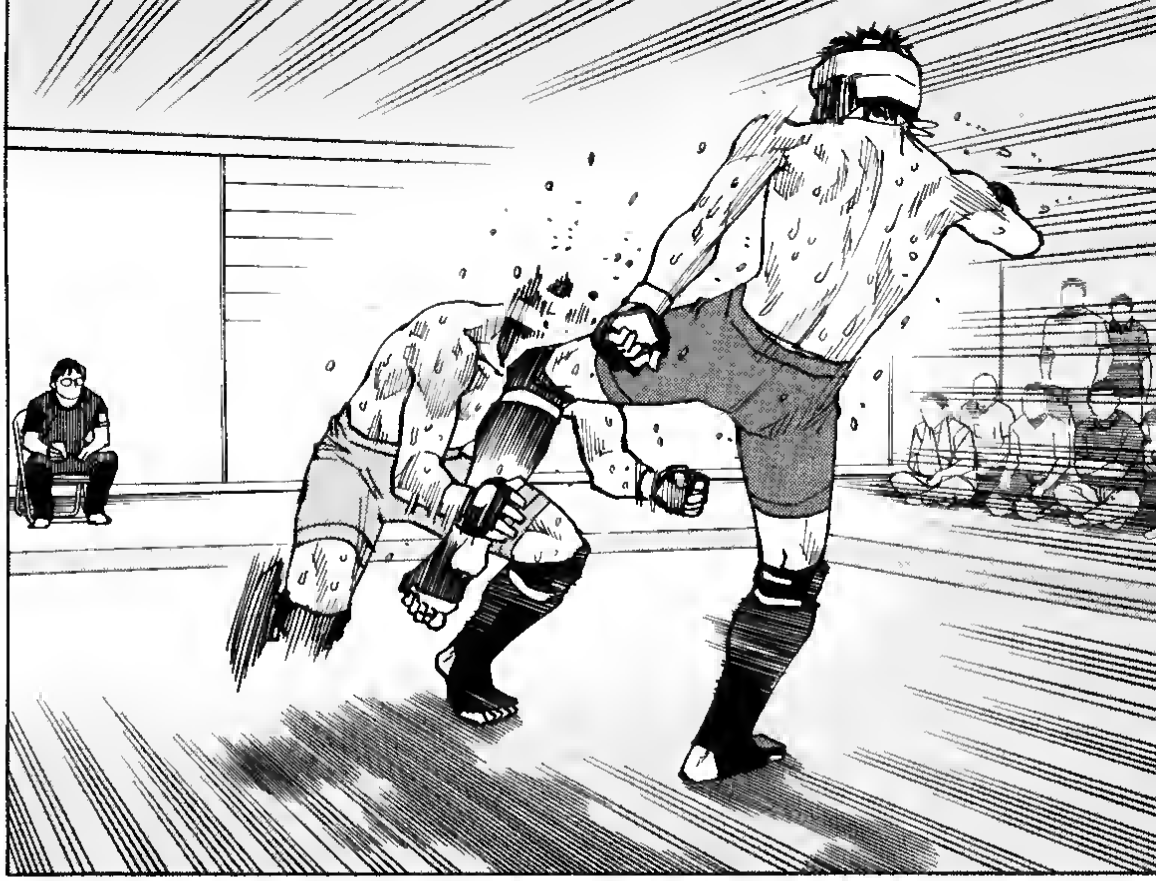
...WITH THE MITT...
AFTER ALL THAT PRACTICE...
...A LEFT MIDDLE KICK.
...I NEVER DID USE...
...IN THE MIRROR.
...AND CHECKING MY FORM...
DON'T THINK ABOUT POINTS.
THAT'S NOT HOW I ROLL.
ドゥ
MAKI'S GONNA BE SO PISSED AT ME.

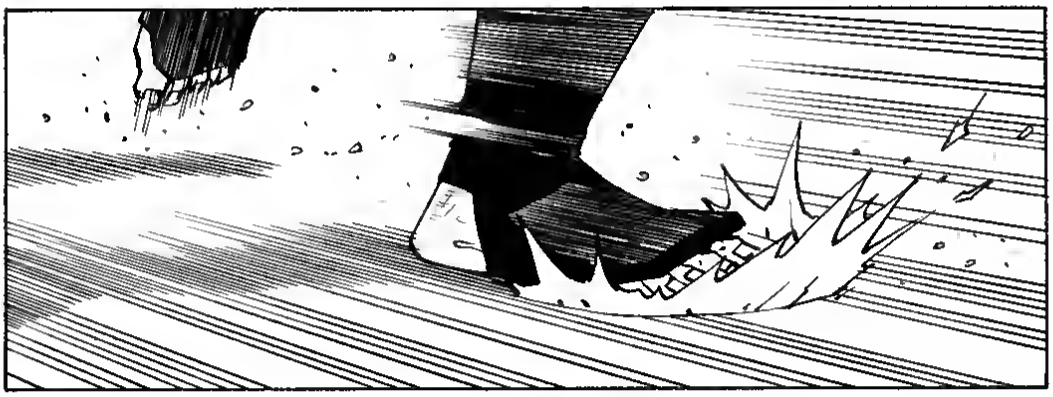
I'M GONNA KEEP ON THE OFFENSE TILL THE END.
I WON'T RUN.
I'VE GOTTA USE A JAB TO GAUGE THE DISTANCE...
HE'S NOT GONNA BACK DOWN WITH A ONE-TWO PUNCH.
YOU START WITH THE SAME FORM AS A FRONT KICK...
...AND THEN COME UP DIAGONALLY.
IN MMA, YOU DON'T LAND A KICK...
...BY COMING AROUND FROM THE SIDE.

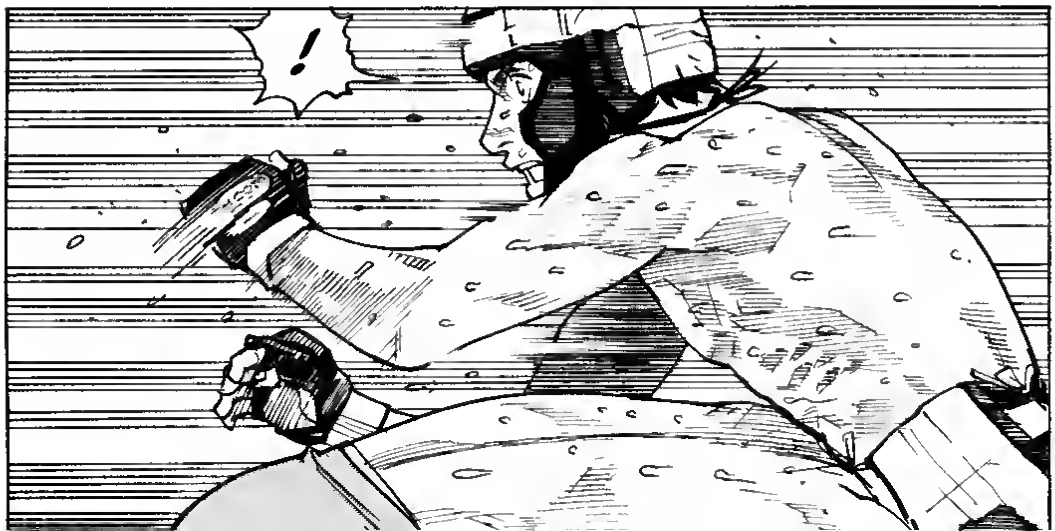
...
TAUGHT
ME.
JUST
LIKE
MARIA...

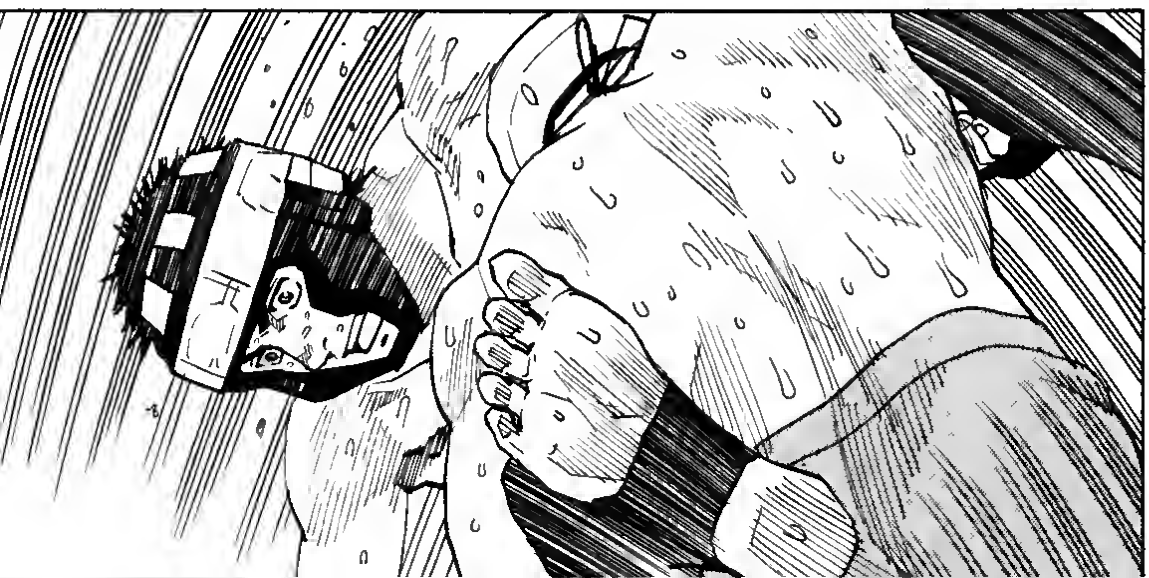

FROM THE KNEE...

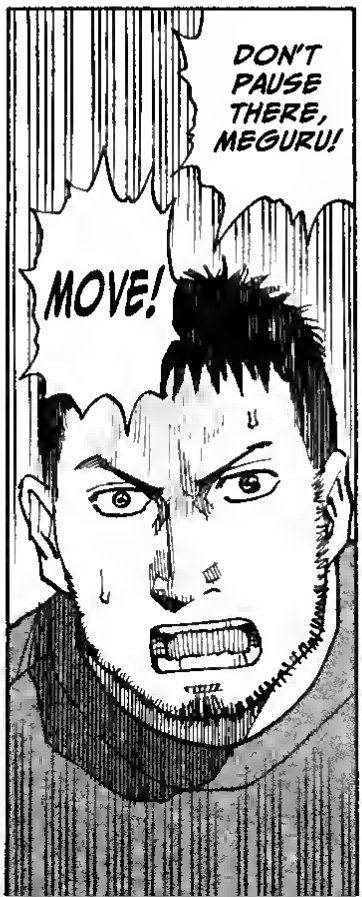
SHOOTO



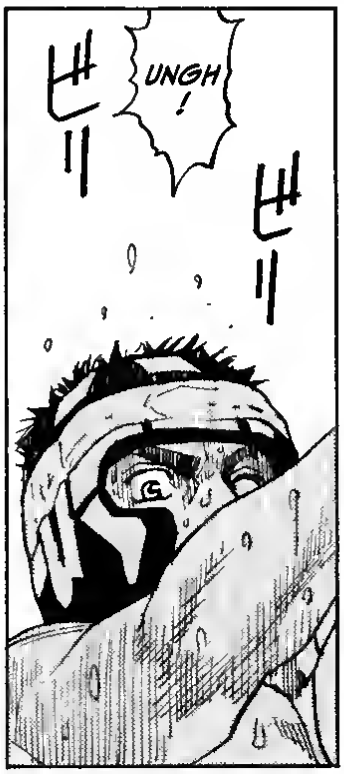




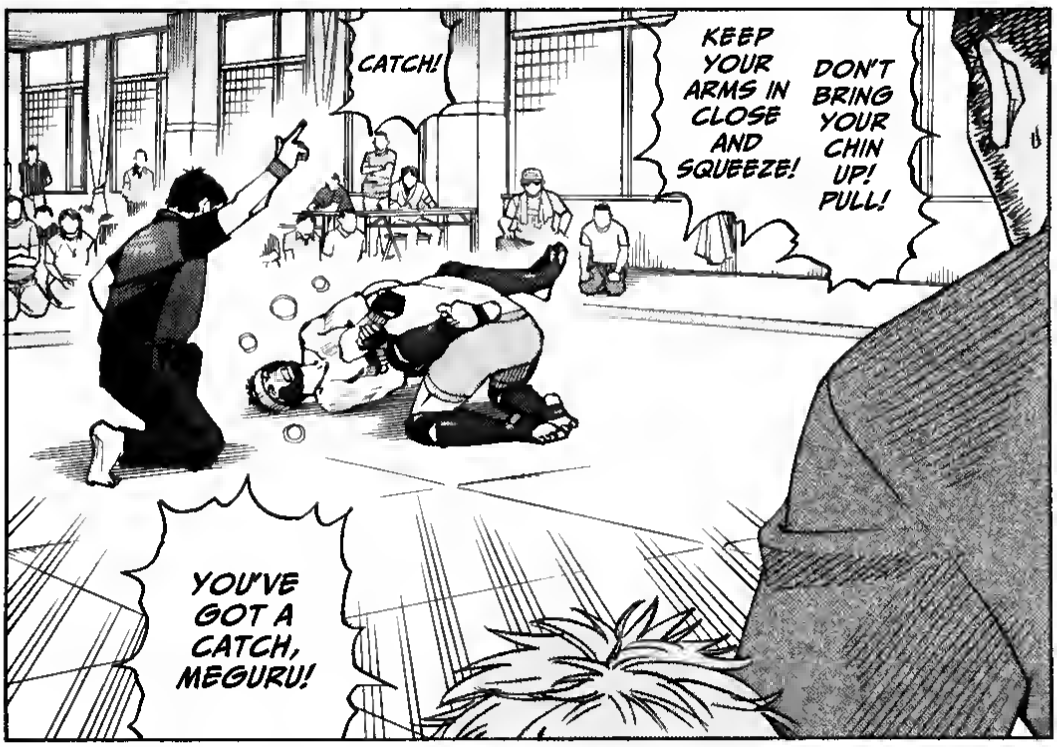


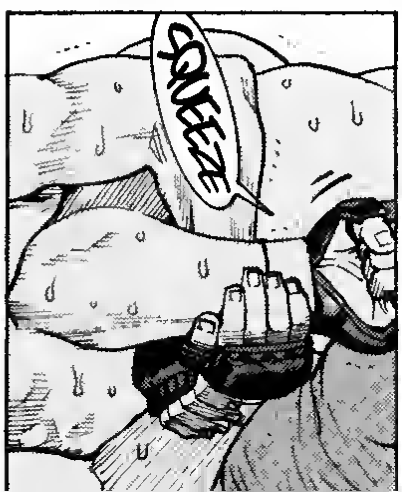

DON'T PAUSE THERE, MEGURU!
MOVE!

TOP!
TAKE-DOWN!


UNGH!

GIVE IT EVERY-THING YOU'VE GOT!
FINISH IT!

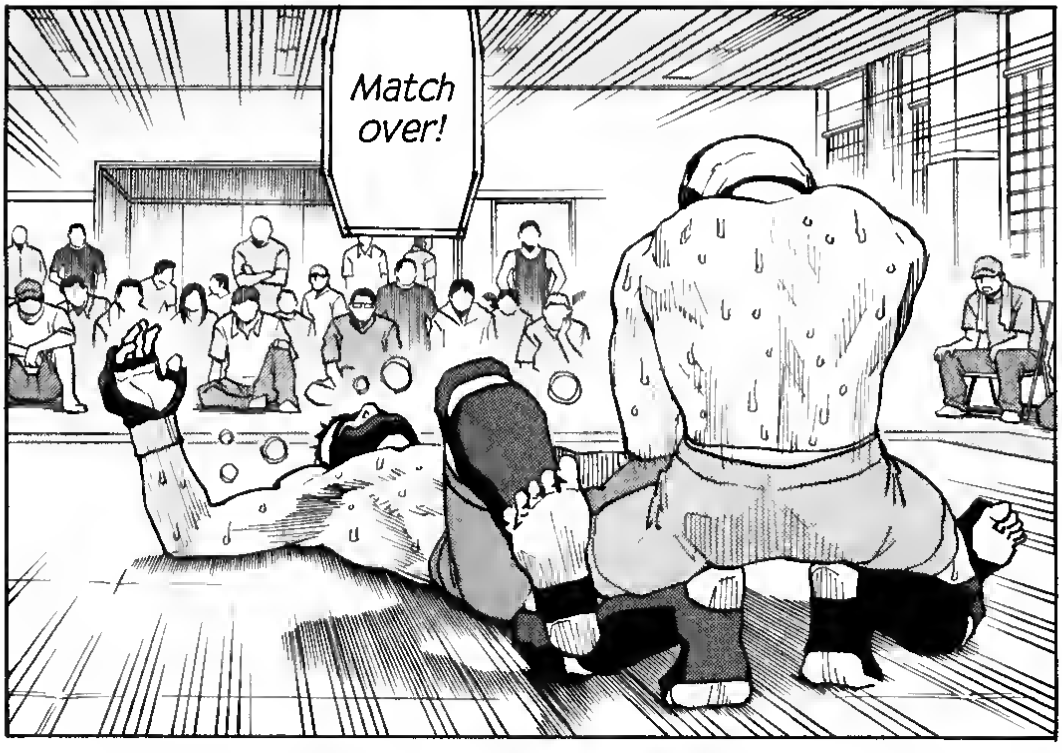

CATCH!
KEEP YOUR ARMS IN CLOSE AND SQUEEZE!
DON'T BRING YOUR CHIN UP! PULL!
YOU'VE GOT A CATCH, MEGURU!


SQUEEZE

KAGAYA! FIVE SECONDS LEFT!
DON'T PANIC! JUST HANG IN THERE!

……
カ
カ
！

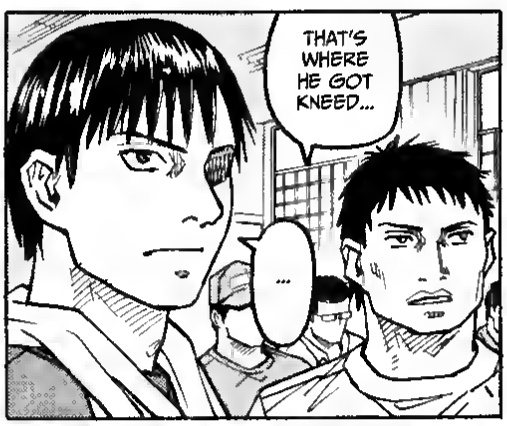
STOP!

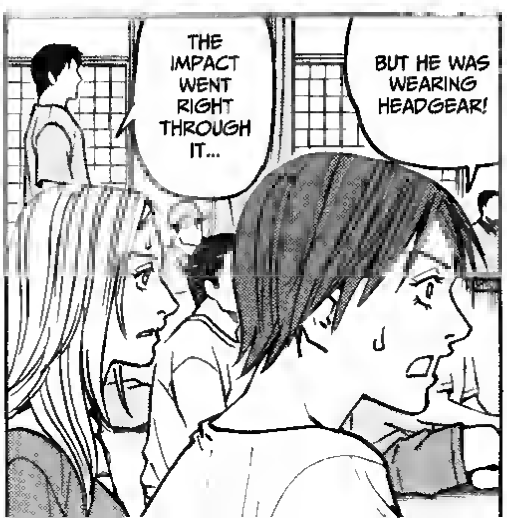

Match over!

カポ
SHOOTO
!
The judges will now make their decision!
...
Please remove your headgear!

...
HUH?
MEGURU... IS THAT YOUR BLOOD?
MUTTER...
OH ...
!

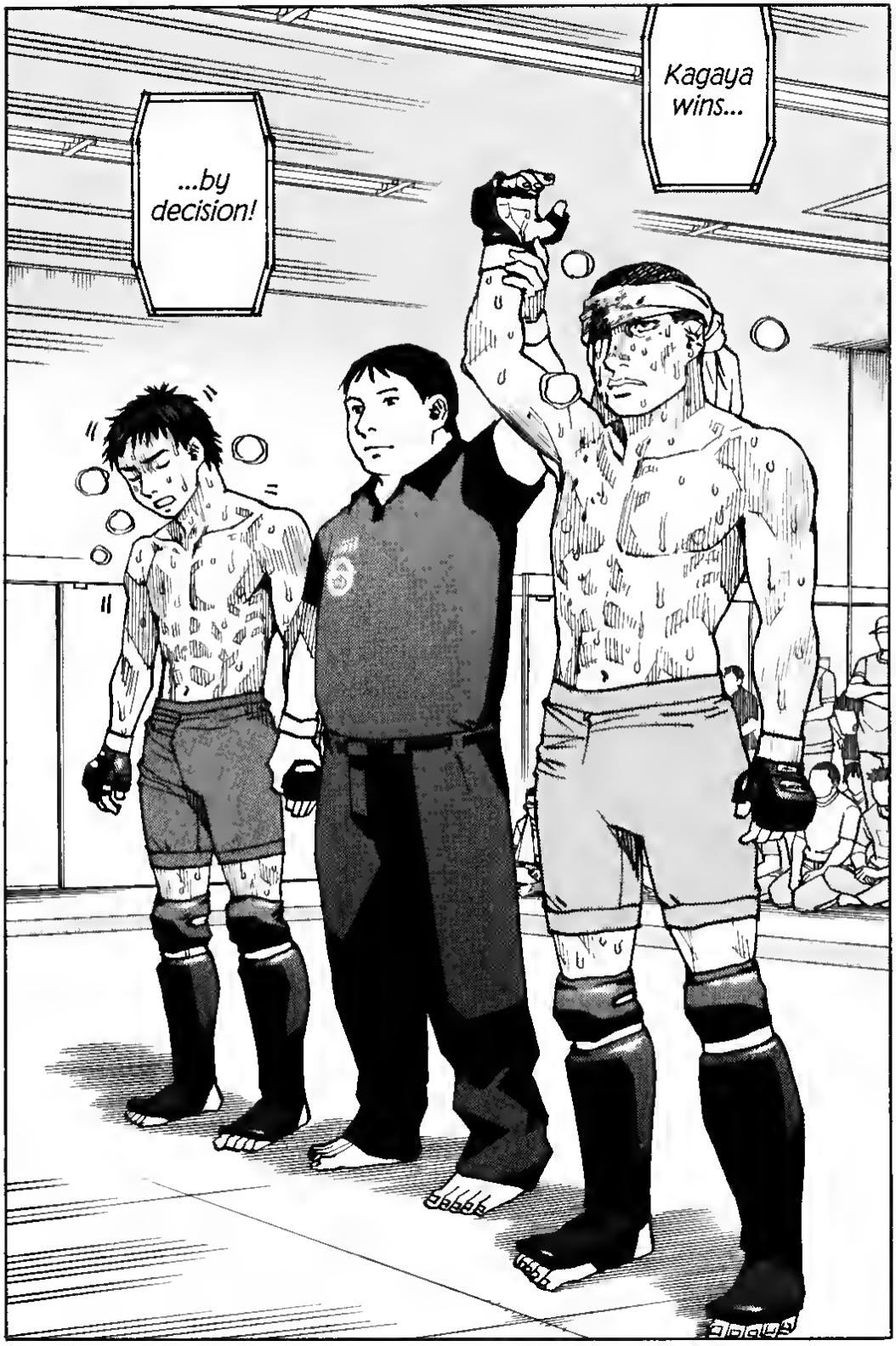
...FOR THE FINALS WITH THAT INJURY.
MUTTER
MUTTER
EVEN IF HE WINS, HE WON'T BE CLEARED...
50


THAT'S WHERE HE GOT KNEED...
...

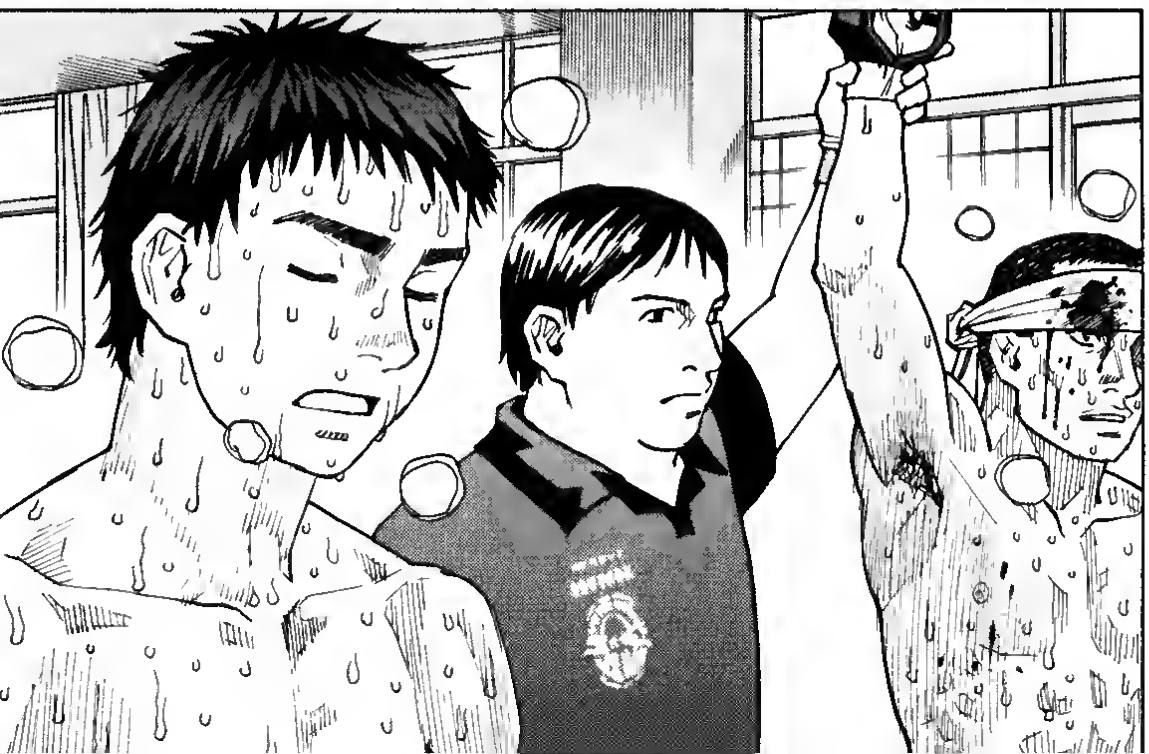

THE IMPACT WENT RIGHT THROUGH IT...
BUT HE WAS WEARING HEADGEAR!

I will now announce the judges' scorecards!
7-18!
Grappling points.
And one point off for Kagaya's going out of bounds!
10-8!
Striking Judge A.
10-8!
Judge B.

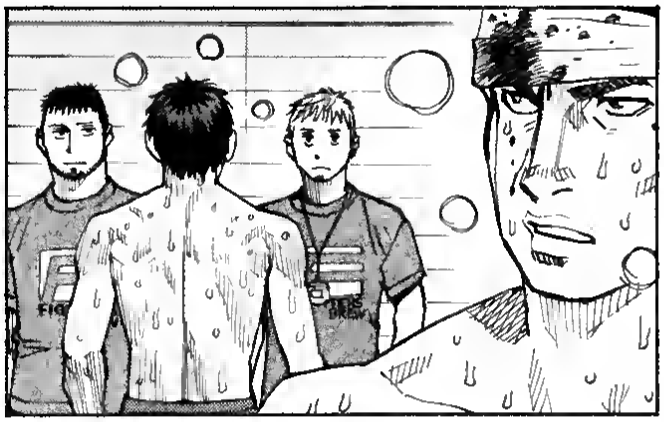
...27-33...
The final score is...
...blue!

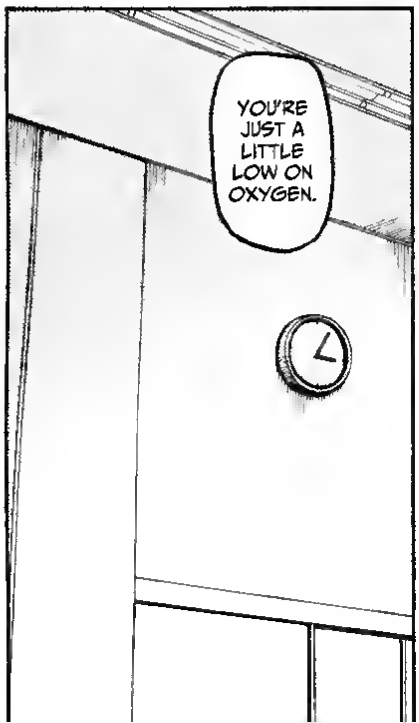

Kagaya wins...
...by decision!

Chapter 56 | I Don't Need a Reason



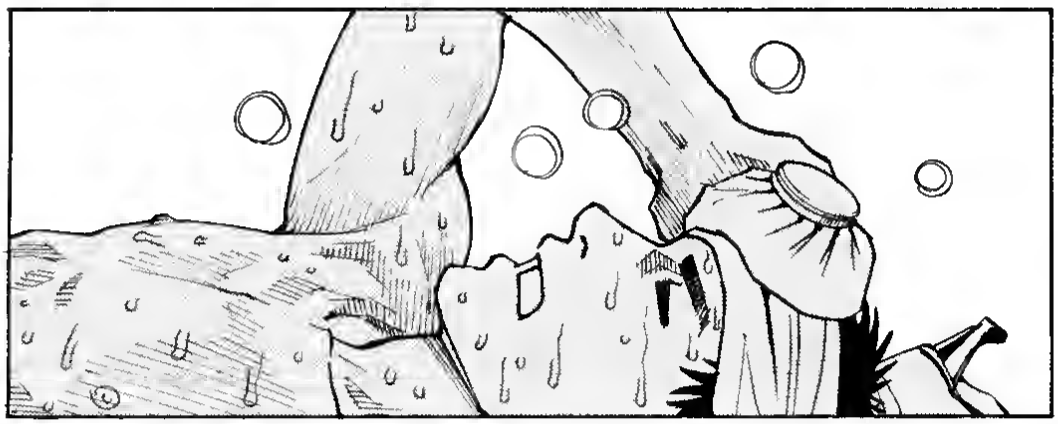
THANKS
...



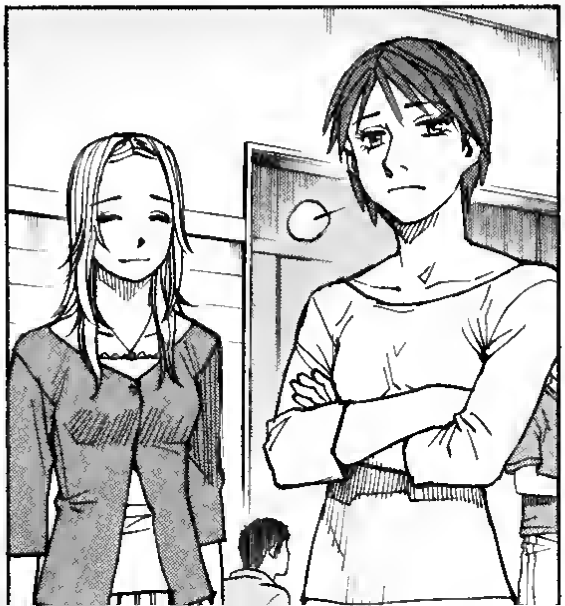

YOU'RE JUST A LITTLE LOW ON OXYGEN.

AIKAWA, YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF PACKING UP.
ALL RIGHT, YUDAI, LET'S GET YOU TO THE HOSPITAL.
...

YOU'D BETTER LIE DOWN FOR A WHILE.



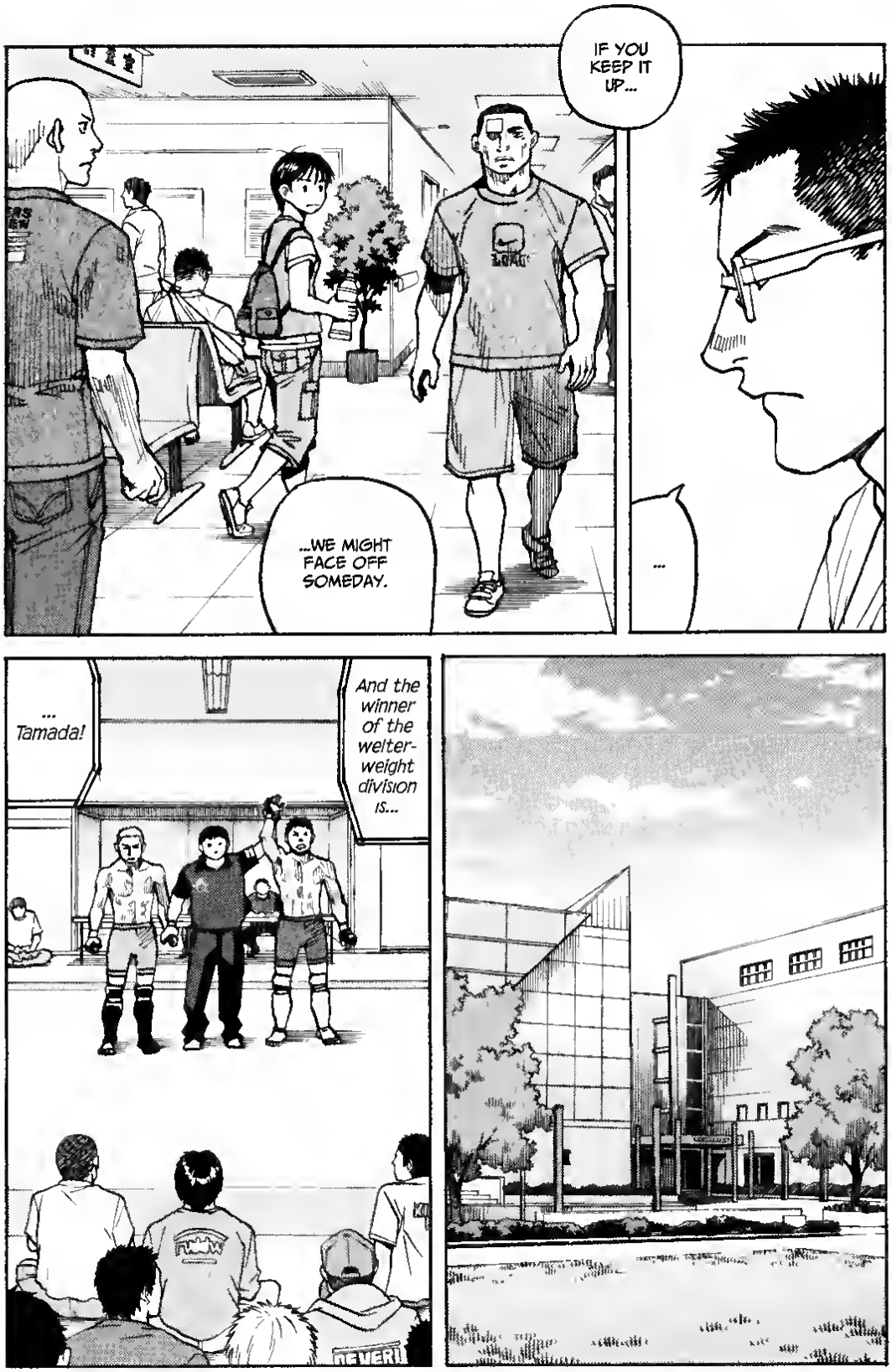
And now...



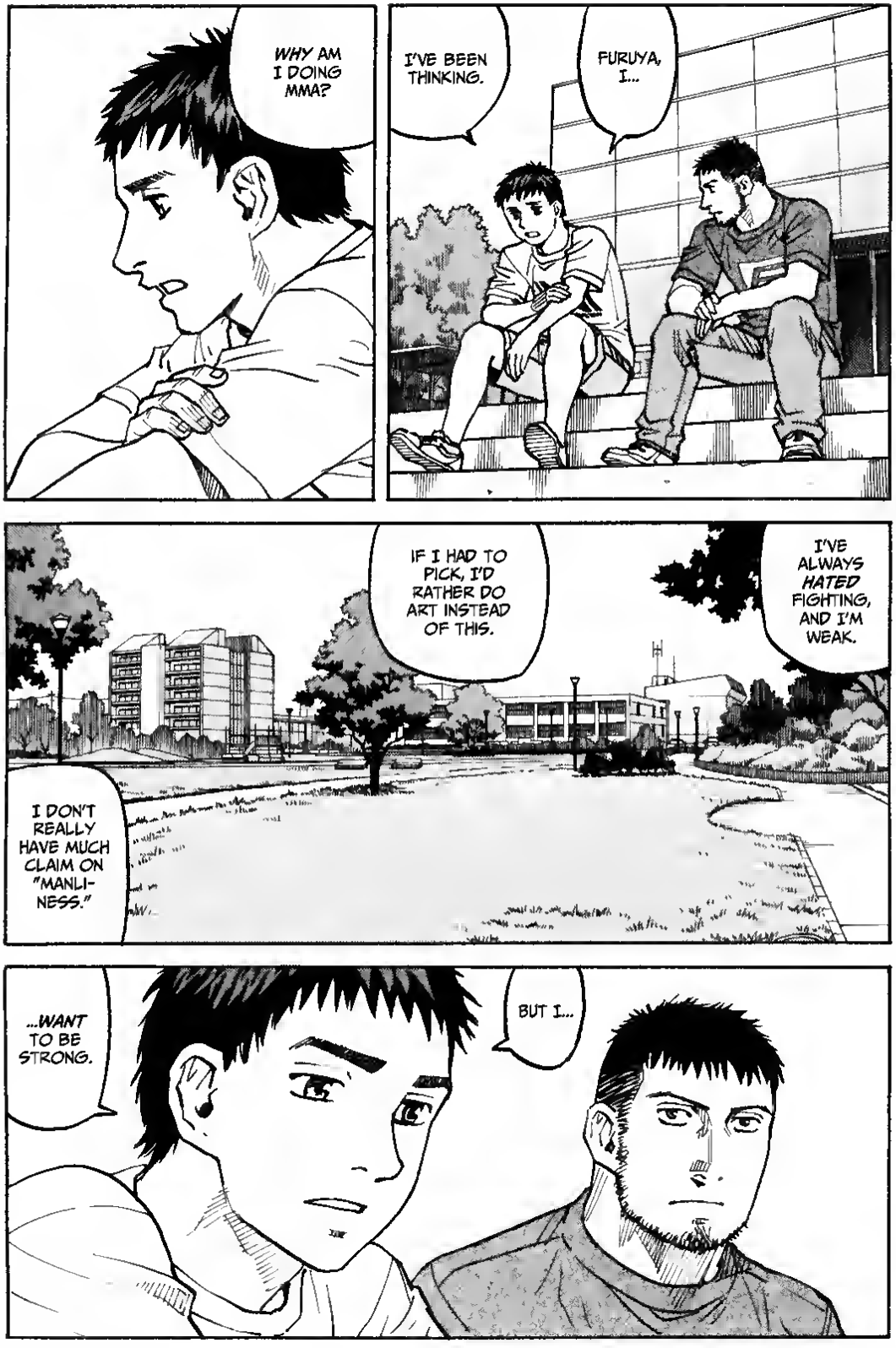
Due to his injuries, lightweight semi-finalist Kagaya...
...will be unable to fight, making the winner...
...the finals will begin!
WHY DOESN'T MEGURU GET BUMPED UP TO THE FINALS INSTEAD?
THAT'S TOO DANGEROUS IN A HIGH-IMPACT SPORT LIKE MMA.
...Takashi Yamabuki!
...of the lightweight division...

WAITING FOR A CAT SCAN?
...
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
... YEAH.
!

... STRONG
HE'S ...
OF COURSE HE IS.
I GOT 14 STITCHES.
OH YEAH?
I'M NOT GIVING UP ON GOING PRO.
I'M GONNA DO THE REGIONALS AND FIGHT MY WAY TO THE NATIONALS.

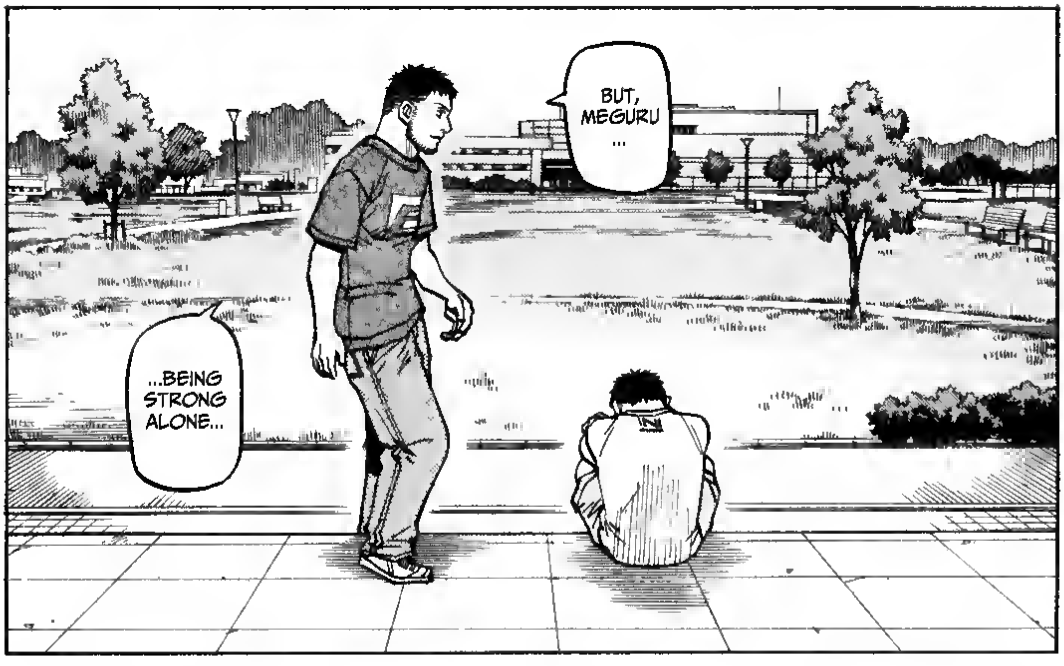

IF YOU KEEP IT UP...
...WE MIGHT FACE OFF SOMEDAY.
...
...Tamada!
And the winner of the welter-weight division is...

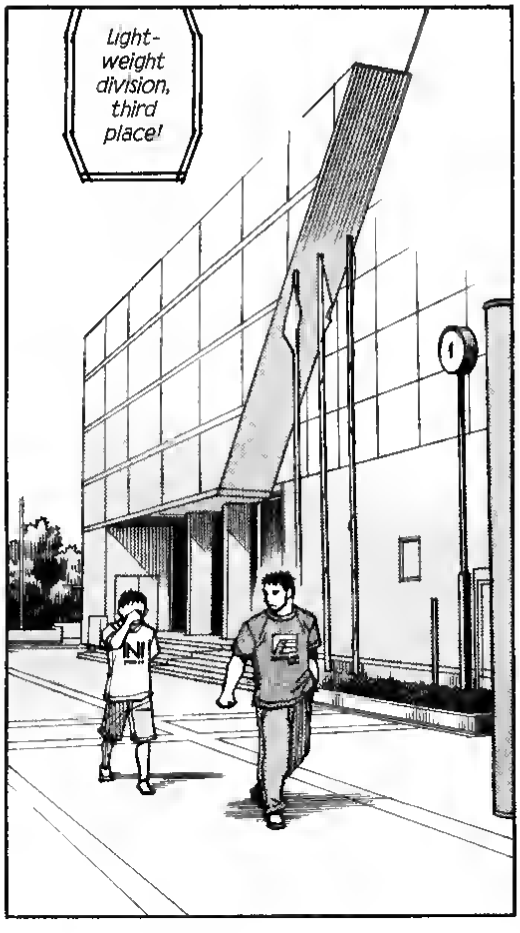
I THOUGHT YOU WENT HOME BEFORE THE CLOSING CEREMONY.
...
!
THERE YOU ARE!


WHY AM I DOING MMA?
I'VE BEEN THINKING.
FURUYA, I...
IF I HAD TO PICK, I'D RATHER DO ART INSTEAD OF THIS.
I'VE ALWAYS HATED FIGHTING, AND I'M WEAK.
I DON'T REALLY HAVE MUCH CLAIM ON "MANLINESS."
...WANT TO BE STRONG.
BUT I...

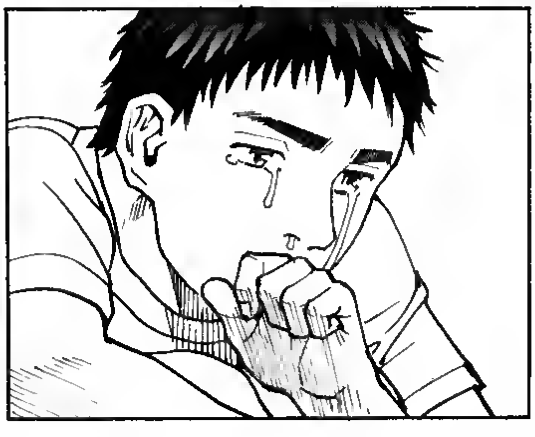
I'VE GOT A WEAK CHIN, NO STAMINA...
...BUT I JUST COULDN'T *MOVE*.
AFTER I KNEED KAGAYA...
...I COULD HEAR YOU AND YUDAI TELLING ME TO GET IN THERE...
OF COURSE I WAS GONNA LOSE...
AND COME ON, I GOT TAKEN DOWN *THREE TIMES* IN FOUR MINUTES...
...OR STRENGTH.
...

IF I PRACTICE MORE...
FURUYA ...
...GET STRONGER ?
... WILL I...
SURE.
...

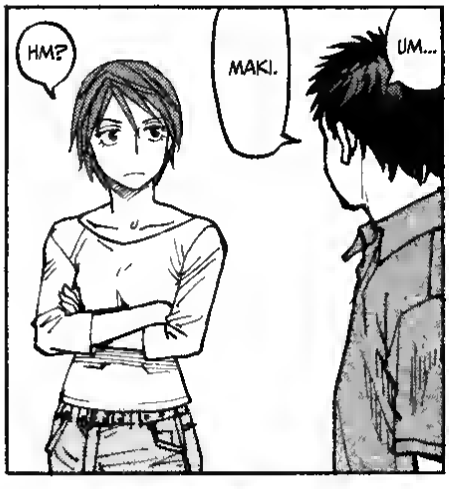

BUT, MEGURU ...
...BEING STRONG ALONE...

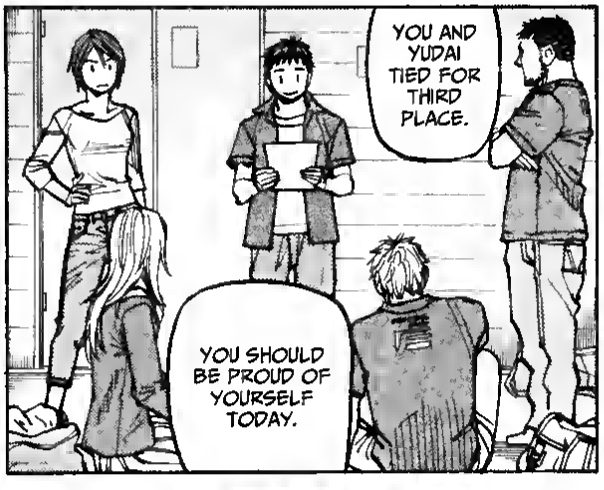

Light-weight division, third place!

...IN MMA.
... DOESN'T REALLY MEAN ANYTHING ...

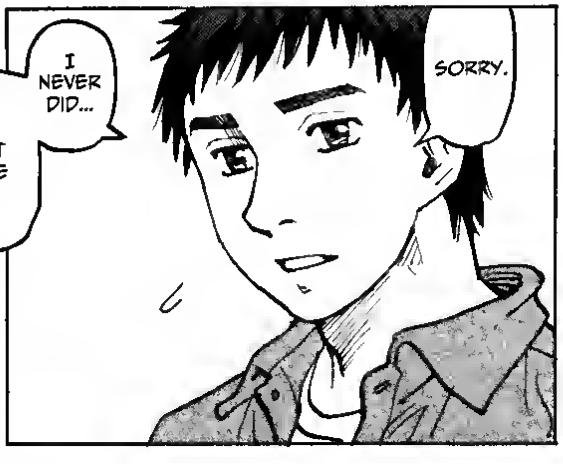


...
Meguru Taka-yanagi!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

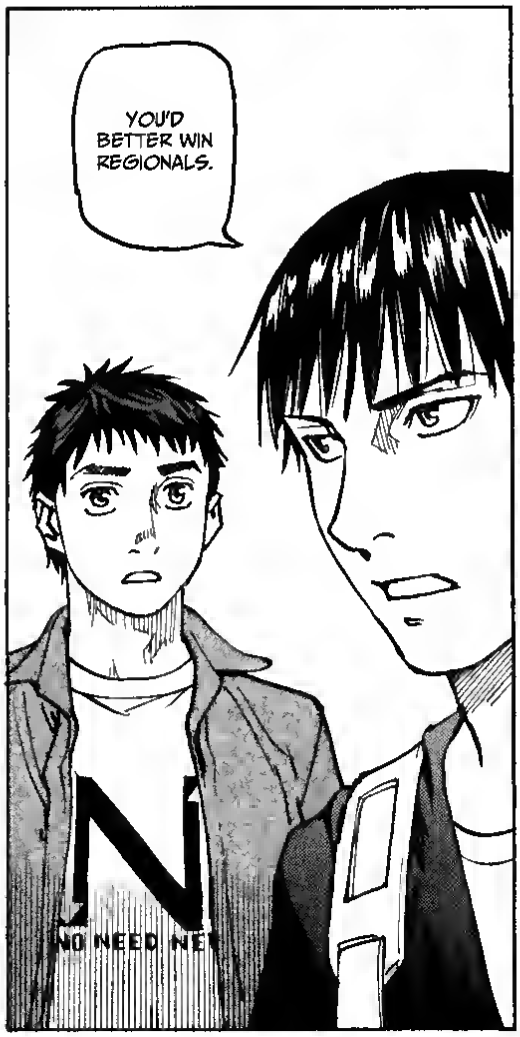

HM?
MAKI.
UM...


YOU AND YUDAI TIED FOR THIRD PLACE.
YOU SHOULD BE PROUD OF YOURSELF TODAY.

HUH?
UH...
...USE A LEFT MIDDLE KICK.
I NEVER DID...


SORRY.

W-WHO CARES ABOUT THAT?
JUST FORGET IT.

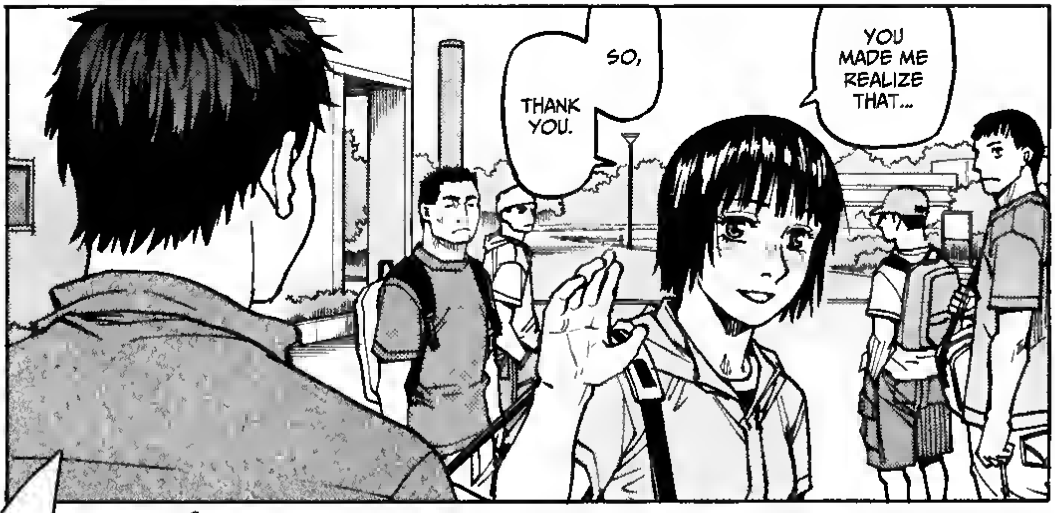

YOU'D BETTER WIN REGIONALS.
NO NEED NET

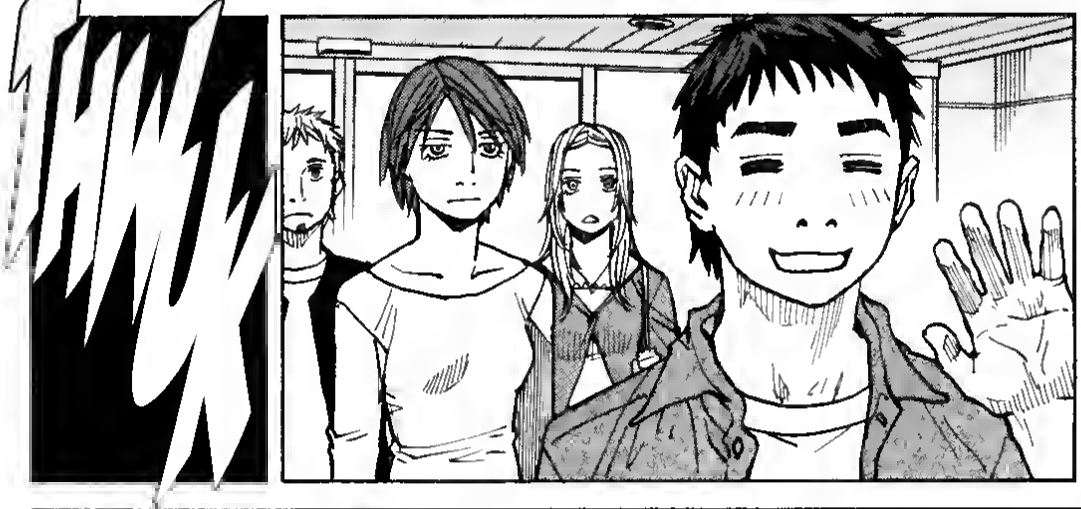
!

I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU AT THE NATION-ALS.
In the end, I still couldn't figure out...
...why I was doing MMA.

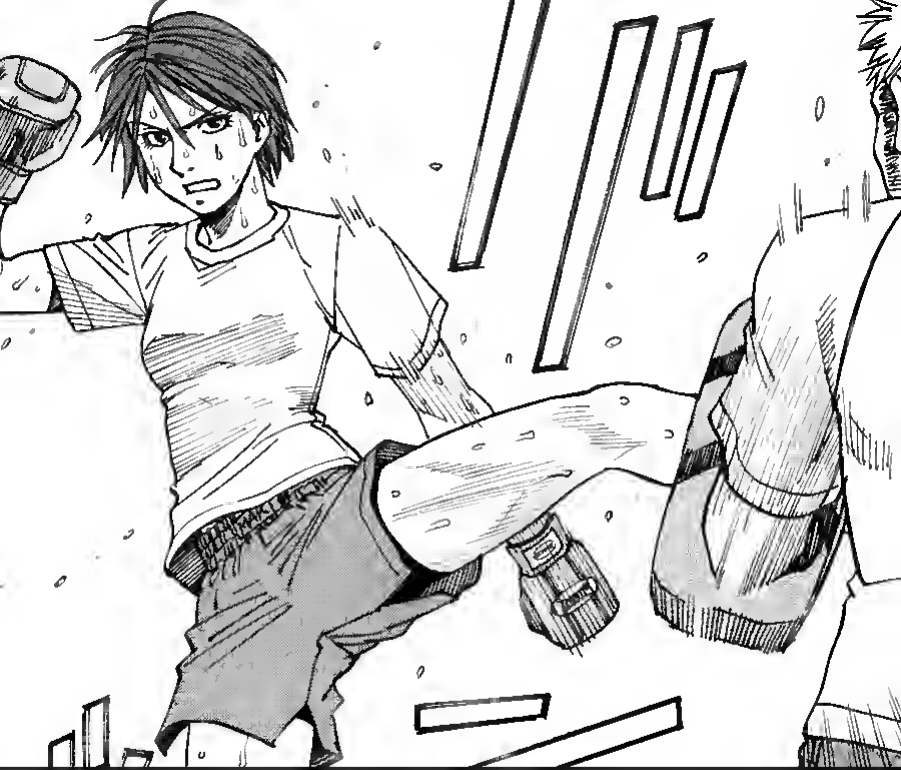
The only thing I knew for sure...
...was that I couldn't quit it.
!
CRAP.
AHH...
チャリン

YOUR MATCH WITH MAKI WAS AWESOME.
OH, YOU REMEMBERED?
WERE YOU AND KAGAYA IN THE SAME GYM?
YEAH.
HE GOT SO OBSESSED WITH GETTING STRONGER, HE COULDN'T SEE ANYTHING ELSE...
HE STARTED SAYING THINGS HE DIDN'T MEAN...
BUT AFTER YOUR MATCH TODAY...
...HE GAVE YOU A HAND...
...TO HELP YOU UP, DIDN'T HE?
I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM LIKE THAT IN A LONG TIME...
MAYBE I MISJUDGED HIM...





To be continued in *All-Rounder Meguru* Vol. 7



Read the next chapter of

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ALL ROUNDER MEGURU

オールラウンダー廻（メグル）